

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 005868

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ORIGIN EB-07

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R 100035Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

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PAGE 02 STATE 005868

SUBJECT: TRADE ACT OF 1974 - GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF

PREFERENCES

REF: (A) STATE 282967, (B) COTONOU 0020, (C) DAKAR 0046

1. USG HAS NOT YET MADE DETERMINATIONS AS TO WHETHER REVERSE PREFERENCES GRANTED BY YAOUNDE CONVENTION SIGNATORIES HAVE SIGNIFICANT, ADVERSE EFFECT ON US COMMERCE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 502(B) (3) OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974. IN FACT, NO FINAL DETERMINATION HAS YET BEEN MADE REGARDING ANY COUNTRY'S ELIGIBILITY FOR GSP UNDER ALL THE CRITERIA OUTLINED IN SECTION 502.

2. DURING JULY 1974 MEETING IN JAMAICA, EC TOLD 44 ACP COUNTRIES, INCLUDING YAOUNDE PARTIES, THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER REQUIRE REVERSE PREFERENCES. SINCE ACP COUNTRIES (INCLUDING YAOUNDE) HAVE BEEN OPPOSED TO REVERSE PREFERENCES, USG ASSUMES THESE PREFERENCES WILL BE PHASED OUT. ON THIS BASIS PARTIES TO YAOUNDE CONVENTION HAVE NOT BEEN EXCLUDED FROM DESIGNATION AS GSP BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF REVERSE PREFERENCES.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: GIVEN INDICATIONS REFTEL C THAT SOME YAOUNDE COUNTRIES MAY CONTINUE TO GRANT REVERSE PREFERENCES EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED, ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD DRAW ATTENTION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS

TO SECTION 502(B) (3) OF THE TRADE ACT AND EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS USG UNDERSTANDING THAT ACP COUNTRIES WILL NO LONGER GRANT SUCH REVERSE PREFERENCES. POSTS SHOULD SEEK TO CONFIRM THIS UNDERSTANDING, AND REPORT ON URGENT BASIS IN CASE UNDERSTANDING IS NOT CORRECT. IN DISCUSSING GSP WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS, POSTS SHOULD STRESS THAT USG CONTINUES TO OPPOSE REVERSE PREFERENCES, AND THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO PROGRESS TOWARD ELIMINATION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. OUR HOPE IS THAT THIS WILL OCCUR PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION OF GSP, THUS OBTAINING NEED FOR USG TO MAKE DETERMINATIONS PARA 1 ABOVE. POSTS SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT OUR AIM IS NOT RPT NOT TO IMPLY ANY SORT OF THREAT, BUT TO AVOID A POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT SITUATION IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 005868

FUTURE. KISSINGER

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